

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A seal assembly for establishing a dynamic sealing interface with respect to a rotating surface, said seal assembly comprising:

a rigid carrier;

an annular support member fabricated from a resilient, polymeric material, said annular support member fixedly engaged with said rigid carrier and having a lip extending outwardly from said carrier to define a flexible annular supporting surface; and

a PTFE seal having a first collar portion connected directly to said flexible annular supporting surface and defining a first sealing surface and a second collar portion freely extending past said annular supporting surface of said lip and defining an unreinforced second sealing surface, whereby said first and second sealing portions directly simultaneously engage the rotating surface to establish the dynamic seal therebetween while only said first sealing portion remains backed and reinforced by said flexible annular support member.

2. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein said first sealing surface is concentric with respect to said annular supporting surface.

3. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein said first and second collar portions are integrally formed with respect to one another.

4. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein said annular support member comprises rubber.

5. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein said seal further comprises:

hydrodynamic features extending along said first and second sealing surfaces.

6. (Withdrawn) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein said seal further comprises:

internally formed grooves extending along said first and second sealing surfaces.

7. (Withdrawn) The seal assembly of claim 1 wherein said seal defines a plurality of outwardly facing u-shaped recesses.

8. (Previously Presented) The seal assembly of claim 1 further comprising:

an annular living hinge portion extending between said first collar portion and second collar portion and past said lip of said annular support member.

9. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 8 wherein said annular living hinge portion defines an annular notch.

10. (Currently Amended) A seal assembly for establishing a dynamic sealing interface with respect to a rotating surface, said seal assembly comprising:

a wear sleeve adapted to encircle a rotatable shaft and having an outwardly facing annular sealing surface;

a carrier having a tubular portion spaced from and substantially concentric with said wear sleeve and a radial flange portion extending from said tubular portion;

an annular support member fabricated from a resilient, polymeric material, said annular support member fixedly connected to said radial flange portion opposite said tubular portion and having a lip extending outwardly from said carrier to define a flexible annular supporting surface opposing said annular sealing surface of said wear sleeve; and

a PTFE seal in sealing engagement with said wear sleeve and having a first collar portion connected to said annular supporting surface and a second collar portion freely extending from said first collar portion past said annular supporting surface, whereby said first and second sealing portions directly ~~simultaneously~~ engage the rotating surface to establish the dynamic seal therebetween while only said first sealing portion remains backed and reinforced by said flexible annular support member.

11. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 10 further comprising:
an annular living hinge portion extending between said first collar portion and said second collar portion and past said lip of said annular support member.

12. (Currently Amended) A seal assembly for establishing a dynamic sealing interface with respect to a rotating surface, said seal assembly comprising:

a wear sleeve adapted to encircle a rotatable shaft and having an outwardly facing annular sealing surface;

a carrier having a tubular portion spaced from and substantially concentric with said wear sleeve and a radial flange portion extending from the tubular portion;

an annular support member fabricated from a resilient, polymeric material, said annular support member fixedly connected to the end of the radial flange portion opposite the tubular portion and having a lip extending outwardly from said carrier to define a flexible annular supporting surface opposing the annular sealing surface of said wear sleeve; and

a PTFE seal in sealing engagement with said wear sleeve and having a first collar portion connected to the annular supporting surface and a second collar portion and an annular living hinge portion extending between the first collar portion second collar portion, whereby said first and second sealing portions simultaneously form a generally continuous cylindrical sealing surface directly engaging ~~engage~~ the rotating surface to establish the dynamic seal therebetween while only said first sealing portion remains backed and reinforced by said flexible annular support member.

13. (Currently Amended) A seal assembly for establishing a dynamic sealing interface with respect to a rotating surface, said seal assembly comprising:

a rigid carrier;

an annular support member of rubber molded to said rigid carrier and having a lip extending outwardly from said carrier to define a flexible annular supporting surface; and

a seal of PTFE material having a first collar portion connected directly to ~~the~~ said annular supporting surface and a second collar portion freely extending from said

first collar portion, and an annular living hinge portion disposed between the first collar portion second collar portion, whereby said first and second sealing portions form a generally continuous cylindrical sealing surface directly engaging ~~simultaneously engage~~ the rotating surface to establish the dynamic seal therebetween while only said first sealing portion remains backed and reinforced by said flexible annular support member.

14. (Previously Presented) The seal assembly of claim 13 wherein said dynamic sealing interface with the rotating surface is generally centered about an axis, and wherein the first collar portion, the second collar portion, and the annular living hinge portion are concentric relative to said axis.

15. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 13 wherein each of the first collar portion, the second collar portion, and the annular living hinge portion define sealing surfaces.